A Day on the Farm

Rubi enjoys feeding the sheep on the Prep excursion to Chesterfield Farm. Story page 7.
God’s Rescue Plan - Psalm 143

1 Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness.
2 Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.
3 For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground, making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
4 Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.
5 I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds, I meditate on the works of your hands.
6 I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
7 Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails.
8 Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust.
9 Teach me the way I should go, for you are my God.
10 Let me hear of your steadfast love, O LORD, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge.
11 For your name’s sake, O LORD, preserve my life.
12 In your steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am your servant.

There is much to learn from David in this Psalm when things are not going well, when we feel like we are ‘sitting in darkness’ and our spirit is faint.

Firstly, even in his despair, David remembers God’s faithfulness in the past. Verse 5 reminds us of the importance of remembering God’s good deeds and meditating on the work of God’s hands. One commentator on this verse writes, “He looks round, and notices the works of God. The more we consider the power of God, the less we shall fear the face or force of man. He looks up with earnest desires towards God and his favour. This is the best course we can take, when our spirits are overwhelmed.”

At times I have felt overwhelmed. I have felt paralysed by fear; what does the future look like, what will people think; what should I do right now; why has this happened to me? In these moments, we sometimes expect God to act like a magician. Surely God can fix this …right now! And yet the invitation of this Psalm is to pause, take a breath and remember His faithfulness and goodness in the past. I am lucky that I am able to look back on my life and see God’s goodness. The most poignant and cherished reminder of God’s goodness is my teenage bible. In the early years of my faith, I see a bible that is covered in notes and prayers, verses highlighted and underscored, evidence of a growing faith and dependency on God. As life has got more complicated, I look back fondly on my teenage self. I am reminded of a faithful God and a willing servant. This gives me great encouragement for the present challenge.

Secondly, David’s Psalm shows us that after having our perspective re-oriented towards the faithfulness and goodness of God, we are able to have an open and teachable heart. “Teach me the way I should go,” says David. Thankfully, we have a God that not only shows us the way, but also teaches us how to do it. For those of us who believe in God, we also have his Spirit as our Guide; we are led by the Spirit. What an amazing truth!

Once again, I can testify to this in my own life. God has used the difficulties and challenges of life to teach me many things; about myself and others. Being open to the way God would have me go has provided me with great opportunities, but they have only come as I have surrendered and submitted to God. This doesn’t mean I have been led away from other things I would’ve liked to have done, but it does mean being willing to serve God, rather than serve my own desires and aspirations. I certainly have been led by His Spirit.

The Psalmist finishes with this same conclusion. We are in a position to once again stand before God and say, “I am your servant.”

This Psalm outlines an important spiritual discipline. Sometimes we wait too long for God to rescue us from our difficulties and challenges. We perhaps wallow too deeply in despair. Whilst I don’t want to minimise these difficulties and challenges, there is something to be gained from David’s example.

As we remind ourselves of God’s goodness and faithfulness in the past, we begin once again to trust him with our future. As we rely on His Spirit to show us the way, we can once again find ourselves in right relationship with God as His willing servant. Perhaps then, we might just find ourselves sitting in darkness no more, but rather on a level path, in the light of His goodness and grace.

Narelle
MECS Principal

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Middle School Showcase Evening
Thursday 27 August 7:30-8.30pm,
(students to arrive by 7.15pm)
Parents meet in the Staffroom
Meeting with State Education Minister, Mr James Merlino

This Friday, principals from many Christian schools in Victoria will meet for their bi-annual meeting. This will be hosted by Christian Education National (the umbrella organisation that MECS is aligned with) and our guest speaker will be the State Education Minister, and Deputy Premier, Mr James Merlino. We are pleased that he will be spending a significant amount of time listening and chatting to Christian school leaders who represent independent schools that are committed to Christian faith being at the centre of all that we do. Mr Merlino has been a regular visitor to our school, as he is also our local member. We thank God for this opportunity and continue to pray for all our politicians that they would know the wisdom and guidance of God as they lead and serve our wider communities.

Parent Partner Opportunities

Last night we held the last of our Parent Seminars for the year with over 17 new parents participating. Central to our commitment to parent partnership is making sure that our new parents have the opportunity to understand and discuss some of the key values and ideas that shape our understanding of Christian education. We want to make sure that our common purpose is well understood, has a shared language and an agreed outworking in the life of our community. Our Parent Seminars are just one way that we seek to do this.

Another important way we partner with parents is by conducting parent-teacher meetings. These provide parents and teachers with the opportunity to make sure they are on the ‘same page’ when it comes to the learning of each child. Expectations are made clear, strategies shared and encouragement offered. This happens both ways in these important conversations. We look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks.

Middle School Showcase Evening

We are looking forward to the Middle School Showcase evening tonight. This is a new initiative to give more parents the opportunity to see what has been happening in ‘Special Week’. During ‘Special Week’, the normal routine of the Middle School is set aside to provide a special focus on the themes and ideas that emerge from their cultural studies programs and to give ‘hands-on’ expression to this learning. If you are coming along, make sure you check out all the year levels and cycles, not just the activities of your own child. Hopefully you will be inspired and encouraged by the diversity of learning on display.

Update on Martin

Many of you ask us how Martin, our former Principal, is doing and so I thought I would share a brief update on his health. Just last week, Martin finished his 10 rounds of chemotherapy. During this time his PSA has dropped from 479 to 6. The PSA measures the health of your prostate and this result has brought his back to normal which is great news! It is now a waiting game to see whether this treatment will bring long-term wellness back to Martin. Further tests in coming weeks will give some indication of this. Thanks for your concern. He really appreciates it and welcomes your continued prayerful support.

FOCUS On... Health

Depending on whether your child is the sharing sort or not, you may or may not have heard about the new Health classes in Years 7-10. As a Physical Education teacher I am so excited that we are able to focus on more than just the physical aspect of our health.

Each year level has been introduced to the idea that we have four dimensions to our health and that our behaviour has ‘risk and protection’ factors. We are generally most familiar with our Physical health, as it is visible, diagnosable and quite objective, but in addition to our physical health, the Health curriculum explores three other dimensions. Our Social health - looking at our need for a sense of belonging, and that we function well and have been created to live in community; our Mental/Emotional health, where we begin to make the connection with our thoughts and feelings, understand the importance of this health dimension, and look at unhelpful thinking and strategies of change; and lastly and very importantly we freely explore the area of our Spiritual health - this is what gives our lives meaning and purpose. It is vital that students identify what they believe in life and how as Christians we have an extraordinary hope for this life and the next.

We are excited to be able to explore these topics from a biblical perspective and discover with the students the importance of understanding and caring for each of these dimensions of our health.

Anne-Maree
Health/PE teacher
Sport Coordinator

MECS Notes

Financial Assistance Information for Parents

CSEF (Camp, Sports and Excursions Fund) will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school and will be credited to your account.

How to apply

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

Closing Date

Applications close 18 September 2015.

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.
MECS Notes

Congratulations Scott

We would like to congratulate Scott (class of '06) for reaching the top 16 stage of the national voice talent program ‘The Voice’. Scott made the top 4 under coach Ricky Martin (a Grammy and multiple Latin Grammy winner, a leading Latin music figure of his generation - beloved by fans worldwide for his instinctive understanding of rhythm, passion for performing, and equal compassion for giving) and impressed all (including myself) with his amazing voice. Well done Scott and we look forward to the next step of your musical journey.

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator

Parent Teacher Meetings

PTO opened for bookings on Monday, August 24 at 1pm.

The Parent Teacher Meetings are being conducted on the following dates and times for all Prepp to Year 11 students:

Wed 2 Sept: 3:45-6pm (PS & MS only)
Mon 7 Sept: 3:45-6pm (PS & MS)
3:45-9pm (SS)
Thurs 10 Sept: 3:45-9pm (Prep-11)

Please make sure you book your meetings with your child/ren’s teacher/s as soon as possible. Please call the office if you need assistance or have any questions.

Corrie
Admin Support

Volunteers Needed

Next Friday is our Fathers Day stall and we need some volunteers to help on the day. It runs from 9am-2pm. If you can come, even for a few hours we would appreciate your help. Coffee and lunch provided. Please let Ann know if you can help.

New Office for Community Relations

The Community Relations Department (which includes the Newsletter Office) have all moved into the new Admin Building outside the Main Office. You are very welcome to visit!

Prayer Chain Email Hiccup

We have recently realised that the prayer@mecs.vic.edu.au email address has not been working for some time. If you have sent a request to join the prayer chain and haven’t received a response please try again. The email address is now working. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused and would love to have many parents involved in this important way of supporting the school.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

“Think Global and Local” is the theme of our Friends of MECS

Father’s Day stall again this year, Friday Sept 4

We will have an exciting range of Fair Trade and locally produced items available for purchase at the Father’s Day stall on Friday 4 Sept. Gifts will range from $2 - $15.

Primary school students will be taken by their class teacher to purchase their gifts.

Please have your child’s money in a named envelope; coins or small notes is preferable.

Middle and Senior School students can come to the PUMP Room at lunchtime.

Friends of MECS

Freestyle Takedown Championships Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>35 kg Girls</th>
<th>54 kg Boys</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Hadassah</td>
<td>1 Josh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Sophie</td>
<td>2 Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Ella Jane</td>
<td>3 Jake</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40 kg Girls</th>
<th>58 kg Boys</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Hadassah</td>
<td>1 Isaac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Eliza</td>
<td>2 Jack</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>59 kg Girls</th>
<th>63 kg Boys</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Millie</td>
<td>1 Isaac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Victoria</td>
<td>2 Zachary</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>69 kg Girls</th>
<th>75 kg Boys</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Victoria</td>
<td>1 Jake, Hayden &amp; Luke. - (3 way tie for first).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Erin</td>
<td>2 Josh</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MECS Wrestling

MECS Wrestling launched its 13th season in June. On Friday 21 June, around 35 wrestling fans filled the understorey to cheer on their classmates and the participants in the 13th Annual MECS Freestyle Takedown Championships. This competition pitted wrestlers against opponents of similar weight in the world’s oldest sport. This is not the pretend theatrical television ‘wrestling’ (WWE, etc), this is the Olympic style of the ancient Greek Olympics and the modern Olympics. Over the years, Australia has won 40 medals in the Commonwealth Games wrestling. Our MECS wrestlers are following in this proud tradition. Come cheer on our wrestlers at 1pm next Friday September 4, for the 13th Annual MECS Freestyle Grand Championships.

Adam
Wrestling Coach
Only Children

What a terrific production all round! Under the expert guidance of our very own Drama Teacher aka Playwright, Marlene Magee, the Year 9/10 Performing Arts students admirably portrayed real life characters from the 1950’s in a play titled “Only Children”.

The audience were treated to a non-naturalistic piece that slowly drew them in to a true story as told by an elderly woman reminiscing to her daughter. The character of Eileen as portrayed so elegantly by Erica (Year 10) relived a very frightening experience from her younger days as a kindergarten teacher, a realistic performance by Beth (Year 9). Eileen co-supervised a holiday time beach trip for 50 children with a young male teacher, Jim, the talented Brenton (Year 10) accompanied by three teenage helpers; Kevin, Hamish (Year 10), Patricia, Sienna (Year 10) and June, Isabelle (Year 9). A tragic incident occurs which results in the loss of 3 lives. The cast of 19 performed this serious and moving play with aplomb, so much so, that many of the audience were left in silent tears at the finale.

The lights, sound and stage accentuated the seriousness of the story and greatly contributed to this must see performance. Thank you to all those involved for this look back in time.

Audience Member
(Sue)

SP Futsal

The Senior Primary’s enjoyed two weeks at the local Futsal stadium as a part of their PE program. The kids had a great time and were well taught by the Futsal coaches. I saw a number of students improve over the two weeks and all the students really enjoyed using the professional courts at the Futsal stadium. We’ve even had some boys put together a team and join the regular Futsal competition which is great to see.

Thanks to all the Senior Primaries for displaying excellent behaviour and a positive attitude towards trying new things.

Jason
Primary Sports Coordinator
Wednesday August 9 saw 26 fantastic students perform at the Instrumental Music Recital. The theatrette was set up for an intimate concert and the audience was entertained with beautiful music. It takes great courage to get up and perform in front of family and friends so I would like to congratulate each student for standing up and sharing their gifts and talents with us. It was wonderful to see such improvement from students in just a year. We also shared in a very yummy high tea thanks to the lovely Hannah Rowse.

Thank you to the parents for their continued support of their children’s music education and the instrumental music program. A special thank you to Peter Beams for helping above and beyond and to the Instrumental Music Staff who not only support their students during their performances, but help set-up, run and pack-up the evening so willingly.

The next and final Recital for the year will take place on Wednesday, November 11 for students with surnames from N – Z. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Jodie
Music Coordinator
Prep at the Farm

Lovely warm sunshine greeted us, ready for our day at the farm. The children thoroughly enjoyed feeding the animals and patting baby animals in the nursery, including rabbits, mice and a ferret. Some of the ostriches liked to steal the cups of food, and one llama didn’t know it was rude to spit! We had to eat carefully so that the cheeky ducks didn’t steal our sandwiches! The children learned about different materials made from animals, in the discovery barn. The tractor ride was another highlight. We saw deer, camels and alpacas, amongst other sights along the way. Many of the sheep had baby lambs with them in the paddocks, and some of the pigs had tiny baby piglets. Bridget the sheepdog starred in the show as she rounded up sheep and walked on their backs in the pen. Ada and Olly fed two little baby goats with milk bottles, and Sandy, Alison, Sandra Mrs A all had a milking competition! The children had a turn at milking the cow as well, and saw a milking machine at work. What a lovely day we were blessed with to marvel at God’s creation!

A big thanks to all our parent helpers who came along to share the day with us.

Jan
Prep Coordinator/Teacher

Kew Traffic School for Kinder

We were blessed with beautiful weather for our visit to Kew Traffic School. There were a few spills and many thrills. The muddy puddle was very popular.

The children and adults were educated on road and bike safety. The children were then able to put into practice what they had learnt in a real life situation.

We ended the day enjoying a picnic in the park and a much needed rest on the bus ride home.

Cherie
Kindergarten Teacher
### MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES

MECS does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by Mount Evelyn Christian School for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

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### Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 24 - Fri 28 August</td>
<td>MS Special Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 27 August</td>
<td>MS Showcase Evening 7.30pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 31 August</td>
<td>Primary GT 9am PUMP Room run by SPC Year 10 Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 1 September</strong></td>
<td>Year 11 Biology Excursion to Aquarium</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 2 September</strong></td>
<td>PS/MS Parent Teacher Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 3 September</strong></td>
<td>Years 7-12 Tribal Athletics K4 Dad’s Night 5.30pm Kindergarten</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 4 September</strong></td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 7 September</strong></td>
<td>Senior Primary Hooptime Parent Teacher Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 9 September</strong></td>
<td>Middle Primary Hooptime VCE Music Recital Belgrave Heights CS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 10 September</strong></td>
<td>Empowering Girls Mother and Daughter night 7.30pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 10 September</strong></td>
<td>SP Japan Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sat 12 September</strong></td>
<td>Centre Trip Departs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 17 September</strong></td>
<td>SP Positive Boys Blokes Night 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 18 September</strong></td>
<td>SP Positive Boys Billy Cart Races 2pm</td>
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<td><strong>Last Day Term 3</strong></td>
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### Yarra Ranges Athletics

Registration Day Sat 12 Sept, 9-11am, Morrison Reserve, Mount Evelyn, Little Athletics - Senior Athletics. You can try it out with a two week free trial if you are unsure. Season Commences Sat 10 October.

Enquiries 0432 911 129, www.yarrarangesathletics.org.au

### Mount Evelyn Fire Brigade Garage Sale

Sat 10 October, 7am - 3pm, Mount Evelyn Fire Station, York Road Mount Evelyn.

Any donations of goods such as toys, bric-a-brac, books, small electrical, plants, gardening, small whitegoods, working flat screen TVs, small items of furniture e.g. coffee tables would be appreciated. Please note we are unable to accept large furniture, mattresses, box televisions, clothing and shoes. Goods must be resalable items.

For further details or to arrange a drop off or pick up of items, contact 0419 126 426 or email garagesale@mtevelyncfa.org.au

The Mount Evelyn Fire Brigade is run by volunteers. Your donation helps the brigade to purchase new equipment to assist in protecting the community.

### Library Twilight Picnic

Friday 4 September, 6:30 - 8pm, Ferntree Gully Community Arts Centre & Library, 1010 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully, Enquiries 9800 6455 or 9758 9180.

Family entertainment, African drumming, stories, craft and face painting. BYO rug, and picnic.

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### Holiday Entertainment

**Kojo and the Ananse Tales**

Asanti Dance Theatre presents Kojo and the Ananse Tales, Wed 23 and Thur 24 Sept, 11am. All Tickets $10. It’s fun, fast-paced and loaded with dynamic energy.

**Sleeping Beauty**


### Apples & Pears

The next delivery will be on tomorrow Friday 28 August. Please hand your order in to the office in an envelope by 10.30am that morning and ensure you have your name and order written on the front of the envelope, with the correct money enclosed.

Varieties available include Fuji, Granny Smith, Pink Ladies, Golden Delicious and Green Pears. Bags are 5-6kg and the cost is $10 for apples and $8 for pears.

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### NAPLAN Results

Naplan results will be posted home this week.

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### Lost Jacket

Lost – Black & White Croydon City Arrow Soccer Jacket (size 8 or 10). It has Andrew Battams on the tag. If your child has a similar jacket could you please check the tag as it may have been picked up by accident.

If you see it please return to Andrew Battams or drop into the Main Office. Thank you.

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### Found

**Assorted Glasses**

Including one pair in a Guess case. Available for collection from the Main Office.